

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include a reference to prior application Ser. No. 09/653,541, filed on August 31, 2000, as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2).

Claims 1-69 have been canceled. The pending application now contains claims 70-96.

Allowance of the application is solicited.

Dated: December 6, 2001

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No. 41,198

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &

OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 828-2232

Attorneys for Applicant